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Viewing cable 08ISLAMABAD1673, PAKISTAN'S F-16 PROGRAM -- AT RISK OF FAILURE?

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08ISLAMABAD1673**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08ISLAMABAD1673	2008-04-24 15:46	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Islamabad

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/article2059881.ece?homepage=true>

VZCZCXRO7172
PP RUEHLH RUEHPW
DE RUEHIL #1673/01 1151546
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 241546Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6658
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 8492
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3163
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 9609
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 5360
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 4098
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 ISLAMABAD 001673

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/18/2028

TAGS: [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S F-16 PROGRAM -- AT RISK OF FAILURE?

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson for Reasons 1.4 b,d

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has approached the U.S. with a request to use Foreign Military Financing (FMF) to help pay for
[1](#)2. (C) Summary Continued: Post appreciates that Washington has placed a great deal of time and effort in trying to ensure the F-16 deal ach
PAKISTAN AIR FORCE SEEKS FMF FOR F-16 MLU CASE

[1](#)3. (SBU) In September 2006 the U.S. and Pakistan reached agreement to provide U.S. manufactured F-16's to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The
[1](#)4. (SBU) The three cases were built around the 18 new planes valued at \$1.4 billion; associated F-16 munitions for approximately \$641 milli
[1](#)5. (SBU) The Letter of Offer and Acceptance for the Mid-Life Update case covers the sale of the upgrade kits for Pakistan's existing fleet
[1](#)6. (C) Understanding how Pakistan views FMF as opposed to how it is administered by the U.S. is an important element of the issue at hand.
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at without endorsement by the U.S., has produced a culture of entitlement within the Pakistani military as it pertains to FMF.

[1](#)7. (C) Conversely, as it does with nearly all FMF accounts, the U.S. government views the annual appropriation to Pakistan as a single acc
[1](#)8. (C) Pakistan believes its intent to modify the MLU LOA on an annual basis was clear from the sale's inception, saying that its approach
[1](#)9. (SBU) With the above rationale guiding their thinking, the PAF asked the Office of the Defense Representative - Pakistan to modify the t
PAKISTAN'S POSITION: STRAPPED FOR CASH AND COUNTING ON FMF

[1](#)10. (C) The PAF's request is linked to several issues, the most pressing of which is a struggling national economy. The new government fac
[1](#)11. (C) Over the past year, the U.S. has ended cash transfers for Economic Support Funds (turning cash into project assistance) and reduce
[1](#)12. (C) This cash crunch coincides with a dramatic increase in payments due for U.S. weapons systems. The largest of these is the F-16 ca
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June 15 payment the F-16 program may begin to unravel.

[1](#)13. (C) The F-16 program is only one of many large defense procurements Pakistan has planned. These include sales by Chinese, Swedish and
[1](#)14. (C) The Pakistani military continues to plan for major defense expenditures despite the country's growing economic crisis. Given the ne
POTENTIAL USE OF FMF FOR F-16 PROGRAMS - CT SUPPORT

[1](#)15. (C) Despite the current economic challenges Pakistan still feels the need to fully invest in its territorial defense. While Pakistan's F
[1](#)16. (C) The 2008 Foreign Operations and Appropriations Act (FOAA) allows for the immediate use of \$250 million of the \$300 million in 2008
[1](#)17. (C) Efforts by Pakistan to employ its F-16s in a Close Air Support (CAS) role, or to conduct tactical precision strikes against fleetir
[1](#)18. (C) It is important to note that the Pakistani Air Force has employed its block 15 version of the F-16 in the FATA. It has used this a

COMMENT

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119. (C) Comment: For the Pakistani military, the F-16 sale is tangible proof of the post-9/11 bilateral relationship, and we seriously doubt

120. (C) Comment Continued: The USG has multiple reasons to continue supporting the F-16 program. It demonstrates our respect for Pakistan'
PATERSON